

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2559

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016

Human-Animal Conflict

Sarania Shri Naba Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch any new scheme to resolve the issues related to human-animal conflict and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is delay in disbursement of compensation in respect of the persons killed by elephants in Assam and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of funds allocated to Assam so far for paying compensation to the persons killed by elephants;
- (d) the species of elephants found in the country and the method adopted for identification of the elephants;
- (e) the measures taken so far by the Government to save and protect the elephants; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme to avert the loss to people caused by elephants and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (CSS-IDWH), the Ministry provides financial assistance to the States/ Union Territory Governments for management of wildlife. The scheme also includes a specific component for activities including mitigation and management of human-wildlife conflict.

In addition to this, the Central Government provides partial financial assistance to the States/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', inter alia, for the management of human wildlife conflict.

Details of funds released to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" during last three years and the current year is at Annexure I(A), I(B) and I(C) respectively.

Further, the Ministry, with financial assistance from Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), has formulated a scheme to provide assistance to the States for 'Augmentation of Fodder and Water in Protected areas/Forest Areas', aimed at improving habitat in the areas by making provision for augmenting grass, fodder and water to the wild animals which would decrease the frequency of wild animals coming out of forest in search of food and water and subsequent conflict situations.

(b) Disbursement of compensation for depredation caused by elephant is done by State Governments. Central Government provides fund for this purpose to Chief Wildlife Warden of elephant range states. Ministry has not received any reports on delay in disbursement of compensation from Assam.

(c) Details of the fund allocated to Assam under the Central Sponsored Scheme Project Elephant for the last three years are given below:

State 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16

Assam 173.00 Lakhs 236.66 Lakhs Nil

(d) Asian elephant (*Elephas-maximus-Indicus*) is the only species found in the country.

(e) Various efforts made by the Government for conservation of elephants are :

i. Ministry launched Project Elephant scheme in 1992. Under this scheme, financial and technical assistance is provided to 16 elephant range states.

ii. The elephant range States notify the elephant habitats as "Elephant Reserves" for better management of wild elephants. So far 29 Elephant Reserves have been established in 14 States.

iii. Asian Elephant & Indian Elephant is listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide maximum degree of legal protections.

iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has adequate provisions to punish guilty for killing of elephants and other wildlife offences.

v. Instructions are issued from time to time to Chief Wildlife Warden of elephant range state to minimize death of wild elephants due to train accidents, electrocution, Human Wildlife Conflicts, etc.

(f) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry
